against whom cases were registered in Delhi during the last three years, from 1997 to 1999, is 29. The steps taken to tackle this menance include immediate initiation of legal action by Delhi Police against such firms/companies on receipt of specific complaints; to check the authenticity and keep a watch on the working of such placement firms; and setting up of a special Economic Offences Wing under Crime Branch for speedy and effective investigation of such cases.

In so far as Mumbai, Chennai and Calcutta are concerned, "Public Order" and "Police" being state subject as per the Constitution of India, the regisration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime is essentially the responsibility of the State Governments concerned.

Baba Budan Giri Shrine

1419. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Ayodhya Ram Mandir like situation had been brewing since December last around the Baba Budan Giri Hills in Karnataka, a historic Sufi Shrine;

(b) whether the three day Datta Jayanthi celebrations on December 22 last ended in violence by Bajrang Dal activists, hundreds of whom thronged the Peetha to desecrate the Shrine, resulting in serious injuries to some of them, including police personnel; and

(c) what steps have been or are being taken to resolve the issue and to protect the historical sufi shrine against constant threats from fundamentalists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) Dattatreya Peetha—Baba Budangiri Hills shrine is sacred to both Hindus and Muslims. While the Muslims visit the shrine round the year, and in large numbers during annual Urs, the Hindus visit

the shrine during festivals and in large number during Dattatreya Jayanthi.

During the Datta Jayanthi celebrations on December 22, 1999, the State Government has made suitable arrangements for maintenance of peace. The festival passed off peacefully except one incident of stone throwing by sôme miscreants. The Centre is in touch with the Government of Karnataka who have been requested to take appropriate steps to resolve the issue and to maintain peace and communal harmony.

Conversion of Buddhists to Islam

1420. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item titled "centre urged not to accept J&K Government's reports on autonomy" as reported in 'The Hindustan Times' dated 4th February, 2000;

(b) whether it is a fact that conversions of Buddhists to Islam are carried out in Leh district in a planned manner; and

(c) if so, what immediate steps Government propose to check the conversions from one faith to another?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes Sir, the Government are aware of the media report in this regard.

(b) and (c) The allegation about conversions of Buddhists to Islam has emanated from the incidents of marriages contracted by Buddhist girls with Muslim boys on two occasions. No coercion has been used and the parties have entered into the marriage on their own free will. In one case, the girl has been restored to her parents. The local administration is seized of the matter and necessary steps are being taken to keep watch on the situation.